

or teach a school or be a business person or be a student or a doctor or run a home for older people. They will feel these things in a different way because of this event we're doing here.

**Participant.** I believe a President who is looking to the facts of people's life must be a President who is supported by his people.

**The President.** Thank you.

**Mrs. Clinton.** Could I ask the student, what are you studying at the university?

**Participant.** I am now taking the basic college courses, but I want to major in electronics.

**The President.** And what do you want to do when you finish your degree?

**Participant.** I want to further my study after graduating from college, and then I want to have my own fields of interest in working.

**The President.** Do you believe that in China today young women have the same opportunities that young men do to do whatever they want with their lives?

**Participant.** I believe the answer is yes, even though they might have different choices, but the final answer is yes.

**The President.** We have to stop in a moment, but I'd like to ask the doctor one more question. What do you believe the biggest challenge is for improving the health care of the Chinese people now at the village level? What is the largest remaining challenge that would—any change that could be made that would improve health much more?

**Participant.** First of all, from my past experience, I believe the biggest challenge is to improve the environmental situation. Prevention is also very important.

**The President.** This is a very important point which has been made—important for China and important for the United States. When a country grows economically, you use more energy and you have more activity, and it leads to strains on the environment, especially air pollution, which can really affect people's health. So one of China's big challenges, and a continuing challenge for America, is to grow the economy but to clean up the environment at the same time. And we can do both, but we have to work at it, and we should work at it together.

**Participant.** I want to make one comment. All the business people in Xi'an really want to improve the trade between the U.S. and China, and they would like to see that China become America's first biggest business partner. And I would, for myself, want to make more U.S. dollars. [Laughter]

**The President.** Well, I'll work on that, and I will also work on accepting your invitation to come to your restaurant when I'm not in office anymore. This is very nice, you know. Most people in my position wonder if anyone will want us to eat with them when we're not in office anymore. [Laughter]

Thank you all very much. Thank you. [Applause] Good luck to you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Remarks to the People of Xiahe June 26, 1998

*Nin men hao, Xiahe.*

Thank you, Yunlong, for your welcome. I thank all of the students for the greeting and for the wonderful music, and I thank all the rest of you for making all of us in the American delegation feel so welcome here.

My wife and I are delighted to be joined by our daughter, my mother-in-law, and Secretary Albright, Secretary Daley, Ambassador and Mrs. Sasser, and six Members of the United States Congress, Senator Rockefeller, Senator Baucus, Senator Akaka, and Representatives Dingell and Hamilton and Markey, along with a number of people who work with me in the White House. We are all very honored to be here. Thank you.

I understand that soon, like nearly half a million other villages across China, you will be voting to choose your local leaders. I know what it is like to run for office. I have won elections, and I have also lost two. I like winning better than losing, but whenever there is an election and the people decide, everyone wins.

I have come to China to strengthen the ties between our two nations. Over the past 25 years, your country has launched a remarkable period of change, and today, most

Chinese, including the members of this village, enjoy a higher standard of living than at any time in China's history.

Here, by using better farming techniques, you have freed up time and money for other projects, like your brick factory, your construction crews, your handicrafts. Your village has sponsored language classes in English and Japanese to help you in dealing with foreign tourists. Today, your village committee owns a dozen businesses, with 300 hard-working people now able to provide for their families. Many of you have opened your own businesses, and in only 15 years, average income here has grown 17 times. I congratulate you.

I also appreciate the fact that you have invested money back into your community in better schools, in better roads, in installing cable television to bring the world into your homes. Your achievements are a window for all the world to see what local democracy has brought to China and what a brighter future you are building for the children here with us today.

We Americans respect your devotion to family, to education, to work, your respect for the land and for your heritage. And we hope you will reap the fruits of your labor for many years to come.

Thank you again for making us all feel so welcome here in Xiahe. Thank you. *Xie xie.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:40 a.m. In his remarks, the referred to Yang Yunlong, chief, Xiahe Village Committee, and Mary Sasser, wife of U.S. Ambassador James M. Sasser. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Statement on the Supreme Court Decision in *Bragdon v. Abbott***

*June 26, 1998*

I am pleased with today's Supreme Court decision in *Bragdon v. Abbott*. This decision reinforces the protections offered by the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act for Americans living with HIV and AIDS. The ADA was enacted with strong bipartisan support to protect Americans with disabilities from discrimination. My administration argued successfully in this case that people

with HIV are disabled whether or not they have developed the symptoms of AIDS.

I am firmly committed to protecting all Americans, including those living with HIV and AIDS, from discrimination, and ensuring that each of us can benefit from all America has to offer. Today's decision will help in fulfilling that commitment.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **June 20**

In the afternoon, the President went to Camp David, MD.

#### **June 21**

The President returned to Washington, DC.

#### **June 22**

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Nashville, TN, and in the evening, they returned to Washington, DC.

#### **June 23**

In the morning, the President met with President Mary McAleese of Ireland in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jane E. Henney to be Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration at the Department of Health and Human Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomasina Rogers to serve as a member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paul Steven Miller to serve as a Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Marcia D. Greenberger as a member of the National Skill Standards Board.